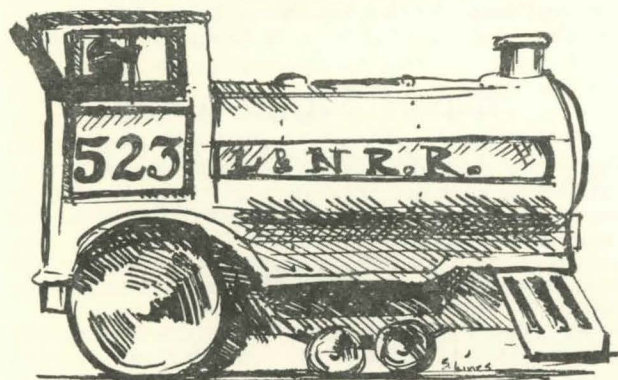


# The EVERGREEN NEWS

*A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association*

## ENGINE, ENGINE NUMBER 523!!

by Rick Thomas



It has often been pointed out that the VECAA community has more than its share of unusual people and things. But one thing, especially of interest to our younger residents, that is overlooked is the switch engine that regularly runs along our neighborhood railroad track. Granted, many communities have trains rumbling through them, but ours, unlike most, is not characterized by the noise and commotion associated with great railroad yards but is more reminiscent of the friendly "iron-horse" so prominent in America's past.

Our neighborhood switch-engine is operated by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad and makes daily trips between downtown Memphis and the main L&N yards on Chelsea. To the casual observer the tracks seem deserted, but the little engine faithfully pulls carloads of oil, metal parts, lard and cement originating at North Memphis industries and destined for all over the United States. On the return run, Engine 523 (or one of several other switch-engines) pulls empty cars and sometimes raw materials for the manufacturers on the run.

Various engineers guide the train along the Vollentine-Evergreen tracks, but one of the trainmen to make the run most frequently is foreman C.W. McLemore of Cordova, Tennessee. Mr. McLemore has guided trains through the neighborhood off and on for all of his 30 years with the L&N. When the bidding takes place on the railroad jobs this is one of the more popular runs and, as Mr. McLemore points out, one of the big reasons is the number of pretty girls in the gang of neighborhood kids that turns out to see the train go by.

Engine 523 is, of course, quite popular with the neighborhood kids. A whistle down the track brings kids running from all directions and it's such an occasion that small matters like getting dressed are sometimes overlooked in the rush to wave at the engineer. Neighborhood kids are eager to talk about their train and describe it in glowing terms. Little Peggy Crawford, a regular train-watcher living at

1956 Crump, calls the caboose her favorite car and looks forward to those days when someone is riding in it. Six-year-old Amanda Webb of 1910 Mignon occupies herself with trying to get the engineer to stop and pick her up, while her neighbor, Jennifer Thomas, assured this writer that it was a "very fine" train.

At a time when trains, planes and trucks roar through the countryside oblivious to the humanity along the way, it is reassuring to live in a community where a passing engineer still has the time to wave to his young friends.

## Judge's Dilemma

It is too early to predict the fate of the school desegregation plans now before U.S. District Judge Robert McRae, Jr. It is quite apparent, however, that neither the School Board's five plans (A, B, I, II, III) nor the NAACP's proposal would present an entirely satisfactory solution for the Vollentine/Evergreen community. On the contrary, if instituted, at least two of the plans (the Board's plans I and II) might well precipitate another exodus of long-time residents.

Under Board plans A and B, Snowden (grades 5-6) and Vollentine (grades 1-4) would be paired with an approximate 50/50 black/white student ratio at each. Under these two plans, Northside High and Central High would experience no significant changes except for a few students from Douglass being switched to Northside.

Under Plan I, which affects only junior and senior high schools, the Board proposes shifting the northeast section of the Snowden Junior High boundary to move 120 white students into the Cypress Junior High zone, at the same time shifting the southwest section of the Cypress zone to move 120 black students into the Snowden zone. Under the same plan, Central High School would gain 350 black students from the northern section of Hamilton High while losing 35 white students from its extreme northern section to Douglass and 35 white students from its north-central section to Northside.

Plan II is essentially the same as Plan A, and in regard to our community, Plan III does not seem to differ from Plan A either.

More sweeping changes are proposed by the NAACP. Its plan calls for clustering Vollentine Elementary with Klondike and Denver (in Frayser). The Snowden Elementary area would be clustered with Leath (grades 1-3) and Maury (grades 4-6). Snowden would be a junior high only, drawing students from East, Lester, Snowden, Springdale and Lawler Elementary Schools. Cypress Junior High would draw students from Vollentine, Hyde Park, Brookmeade and Denver. Each junior high would have a black/white ratio of about 52/48. Northside would draw students from the Vollentine Elementary zone and Central High would draw from the Snowden and Spring-

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The next VECAA meeting will take place Monday, April 24, 8 p.m., Fellowship Hall, McLean Baptist Church. Election will be held for chairman of the steering committee. Mass transit will be discussed. Everyone is cordially invited.

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## DILEMMA continued

dale zones. Both high schools would have a black/white ratio of about 48/52.

Both the Board's pairing and the NAACP's clustering proposals for Snowden and Vollandine have their merits. The Board's plans for our junior and senior high schools, however, are very inadequate. Plan I proposes token integration at Northside High and Cypress Junior High at the expense of Central High and Snowden Junior High, both of which are already truly integrated schools. Under this plan, the Board expects the V/E community to send 35 more white students to Northside High, bringing the potential number of white students there to about 60, or less than 4% of the total number, and to integrate the entirely black Cypress Junior High with 120 white students or less than 8% of the total number. In other words, the Board expects to recruit all of the potential 120 white Cypress Junior High students from the northern half of the neighborhood which already does the integrating at Northside High as well as at Vollandine Elementary.

The V/E community simply does not have the white students needed to integrate Northside High and Cypress Junior High, and all the maneuvering and token shifting of students proposed in the Board's desegregation plans I and II is folly. The NAACP's plan may not be a popular solution either, but for Northside and Cypress to be integrated meaningfully, the Board would have to transport students.

### Business

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## Kidney Benefit

The Nurses Association of the City of Memphis Hospitals will hold a benefit bingo match at Little Flower Church on Friday, May 5. The benefit will be coordinated by the Kidney Foundation and proceeds will go toward the purchase of artificial kidneys for the renal unit at Bowld Hospital.

Admission for the 7:30 match is \$1 per card and tickets can be bought in advance from members of the nurses association and the Kidney Foundation. Prizes will include an expense-paid weekend at a Holiday Inn, a painting or sketch by a local artist, a dinette suite and many others. There will also be a cake booth, with chances being sold on some very unusual cakes.

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## Shoppers' Choice

### Sweetrolls and Bagels

by Golden Shumaker

Mr. J.E. Johns has been baking wedding cakes, birthday cakes, and other goodies for his customers since 1948, when he first opened JOHNS BAKERY at 1688 Jackson. The location was formerly a hardware store. About 10 years ago, he and his wife, Mrs. Virginia Johns, bought the laundrette next door and expanded the business.

Mr. Johns is a native Memphian, and has been married for 36 years. He and his wife attend Prescott Baptist Church and reside at 3704 Kearney. They have two daughters, Carolyn and Shirley Ann, and four grandchildren. Mr. Johns is an avid sports fan in his spare time.

## Expert Suggests Plan

Last month's Evergreen News featured a map of our distribution area with the zoning districts and the regulations for each district. Then on March 20 director John Griesbaum of the Memphis-Shelby County Planning Commission addressed the monthly VECAA meeting. Mr. Griesbaum described the work of the Commission and its staff and its function in current and long-range planning.

He told of the adoption of a multiple-centers plan for Memphis, dealing primarily with the development of suburban centers such as Southland Mall, White Station, Raleigh Springs, and Parkway Village. He noted that the central business district and the medical center together comprise one of these centers. Operation Break-through will put 500 new housing units in that area, and the Commission is working with the Downtown Association on a downtown plan.

Focussing on Midtown, Mr. Griesbaum told of the efforts of the Central Garden Area Association which as the result of his encouragement is developing a neighborhood plan. When the residents of that area asked what they could do to encourage home improvement and discourage encroachments of business zones, Griesbaum suggested the neighborhood plan. Through dues assessments, block parties, and teas, they are raising \$10,000 and, according to B.B. Winsett, Jr., president of CGAA, have selected a planning consultant to develop the basic information for the plan. The Commission is cooperating providing maps and some staff services. Significant items to be a part of such a plan would be the structural condition of the buildings, noting areas of significant home improvement or deterioration, the pressures for commercial uses, and uses that do not conform to the zoning, as well as business, transportation, education, cultural and recreational facilities. Such a plan could also look to the future, estimating the pressures for higher-density (apartment) housing, and making some plans for the kind of density which seems best for the neighborhood.

Mr. Griesbaum challenged VECAA to consider developing a plan for the Vollandine/Evergreen neighborhood. A lot of volunteer work would be needed, but the enhancement of our neighborhood as a desirable residential area would be well worth the effort.

## Happenings

April

- 7-----Reception to be held by members of the Arts Council at the Memphis Academy of Arts. The occasion is the opening of a new show by faculty members Dolph Smith and Murray Riss. The reception will last from 7-9 p.m.
- 9-----Mid-South Bible College Choir to present program at Open Door Bible Church. The service will begin at 7 p.m.
- 13----"Family Life Education", weekly series for parents raising children alone, starts at 7:30 p.m. at Evergreen Presbyterian. To register call 274-3740. The fee is \$6.
- 12-16--Mission conference to be held at Open Door Bible Church. Five missionaries from Columbia and Peru will lead the program. One of the missionaries from Peru is Mrs. Tom Brewington, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lee of 1473 Snowden.
- 14-16--Youth outings planned by Evergreen Presbyterian Church. There will be a retreat for junior high-aged church members all weekend and a one-day trip for grades 3-5. Both groups will go to Camp Pinecrest.
- 27----XYZ Club (senior citizens) will have its regular meeting at Springdale Methodist Church followed by a pot-luck lunch at noon.

## Gossip

Welcome to Thomas Kimbrough Johnson who weighed in at 8 pounds, 7 ounces on March 31 at Methodist Hospital. Little Tom is the first child of Judy and Kim Johnson of 2108 University Circle.

Phone items of neighborhood interest to Gossip Editors Mrs. Warren Lowry (278-5997) and Mrs. Cornelia Morris (274-1278).

Two new neighbors in the Baron Hirsch area are Harold and Judy Thompson of 883 Kensington Place. Harold is an architect and can take design credit for such local landmarks as Buckman Laboratories on McLean and the new wing of the Brooks Memorial Art Gallery. Judy works part-time as a model and utilizes her background in art for making her own jewelry and clothes. Her next project will be redecorating the Dopkwe House, a culture center for inner city children. Their two children are Al (four) and Kim (two-and-one-half).

After several months of advertising in the Evergreen News for a house to rent, Jerry and Judy Dunn were successful in finding a residence at 1943 Lyndale. Jerry is an architect and a partner in his firm, while Judy is the secretary for the Mental Health Association. Their ten-year-old daughter, Erin, is vice-president of her fifth-grade class at East High School.

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Appling, now at 2116 University Circle, will be moving about April 15 to Woodmont Towers, Apartment 203, at 1550 North Parkway. Mr. Appling worked as a research microbiologist at Buckman Laboratories until his retirement in 1964 and since then has worked part-time at CBC as the director of a research project on water pollution. He recently finished a two-year term as VECAA's first treasurer.

Dr. Rodney Feild of 2254 North Parkway has been appointed to a four-year term on the Health Insurance Benefits advisory council of the Social Security Administration. The council advises the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare on the Medicare program.

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## Welcome

Going by the scarce number of new neighbors welcomed by the Evergreen News in recent months, some readers may think only a few new people were moving into the V/E community. This of course is not so. According to Joe Hough, chairman of VECAA's real estate committee, the turnover of homes in our neighborhood compares favorably with other, non-integrated neighborhoods. In recent months a great number of young people with children have moved in, the majority of whom are white. Two of the mothers interviewed appeared so young in fact that one interviewer mistook them for babysitters.

Here is a listing of new neighbors that may be considered representative:

Last month, MICHAEL P. and JANET KIRBY bought a home at 683 N. Idlewild. Mr. Kirby is an assistant professor in political science at Southwestern and is at present working on his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin. He plays volleyball, basketball, and racketball and is an avid Packer fan. Mrs. Kirby is a substitute teacher in home economics. The Kirbys have a boy, Tommy, 5.

878 Kensington is being put into shape by ED and MARY BETH WINGFIELD who bought the home last month. Mr. Wingfield teaches science at Humes Junior High. Mrs. Wingfield is a social worker with the Child Development Center. The Wingfields have two children, Mary Margaret, 6, and Benjamin, 1.

MAYO L. and SHEILA COCKE are completely remodeling their new home at 1732 Tutwiler. Mr. Cocke, an amateur photographer, works for Internal Revenue. Mrs. Cocke is very busy with daughters Mary, 21 months, and Anne, 9 months.

Mr. and Mrs. S.T. THOMAS moved recently to 1039 Maury. Mr. Thomas is a mechanic with the city Sanitation Department and Mrs. Thomas is a secretary in Psychiatry at John Gaston Hospital. Their children are Spencer, Jenice, and Danny - all students at Manassas - Spanial, Ray, and Patricia - students at Vollenline - and Timothy, four years old, and Felicia, one year old.

Mr. and Mrs. CHARLES GILLILAND and their two-year-old daughter Amy are the new residents at 900 N.

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**WELCOME continued**

Dickinson. They moved here from Bruceton. Mr. Gilliland is a salesman with the Denby Brandon Organization.

JOHN BEAUCHAMP recently moved to 2072 Vollintine from his home in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He is a college representative for Harper and Row publishers and is a recent graduate of the University of Alabama.

The home at 874 Dickinson was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. JAMES W. WILSON. Mr. Wilson is a driver for Memphis Transit Authority and Mrs. Wilson is a teacher for Project Read at Mt. Pisgah School. They have one son, Derek Sean, who is four years old.

After a year and a half, the house at 861 University was bought by Mr. and Mrs. LEWIS "BUZZ" NOLAN. Buzz is a reporter with the Commercial Appeal and his wife, Betty, teaches home economics at Northside High. The Nolans hail from Mississippi and are camping, hiking, and cycling enthusiasts. They share their new home with tropical fish and Misty, an English Bulldog.

The first of March, R.W. "Woody" Biggs moved into 1906 Mignon. Mr. Biggs graduated from Vanderbilt University last spring and has spent much of the time since then traveling in Europe. At present he is employed as a substitute teacher in the public school system.

The home at 2075 Hallwood Drive still lacks some furniture, but not animals. RODNEY C. and CONNIE BRYANT have a boxer, Psyche, and a sealpoint siamese, Persephone, as well as a two and a half-year-old son, Craig. Mr. Bryant has an M.A. in psychology from Emory University, plays the trumpet, and is now a medical student at U.T. Mrs. Bryant is an actress. They hail from Dalton, Georgia.

A special welcome must be extended to JERRY E. LITTLE and his wife, DIANE, who moved to 2081 Hallwood Drive last October. This month, their home was vandalized by a group of high school students. Damage was estimated at \$2500.00. The vandals have been arrested, apparently after doing similar damage to other homes in other parts of our neighborhood. Mr. Little who is a computer salesman with Univac and Mrs. Little, former teacher and a bridge devotee, took the wrecking of their newly-decorated home in stride. They consider it a one-time incident and do not expect acts of vandalism in the future. Like their brand new neighbors, the Bryants, the Littles have a two and a half-year-old son called Craig.

VECAA's steering committee has received the Little case and considered steps to prevent recurrences in the future. There is, of course, no reason to believe that the V/E community will see more incidents of this kind, incidents which these days are becoming rather more frequent in suburban living. However, if a similar incident should occur again, contact not only the police but also VECAA immediately.

Address correspondence to George Bradfute, 513 Stone-wall, Memphis, Tennessee 38112.

## Meet The Neighbors

### Minority Student

by John Bruhwiler



With the profusion of spring flowers brightening the neighborhood, it takes a long-stemmed beauty like Debbie Barlow to distract a nature-loving eye. Debbie, the oldest daughter of John and Joanne Barlow of 1815 Jackson, was raised in the neighborhood. She attended Vollentine Elementary and Snowden Junior High and is, along with such friends as Richard Lowry, Debbie Green, Mike McConnell and Anne and Lisa St. Cyr, a "minority" student at Northside High. As the school's only white cheerleader, Debbie's minority status is particularly apparent.

But Debbie, who is now a junior, loves Northside. She is majoring in science and math, with minors in history and Latin. She has a high regard for the school's ultra-modern laboratories and boasts about certain aspects of the academic program, such as an advanced placement biology course, the only one of its kind in the city; she lauds the student-teacher relationships and points to the absence of "cliques" often found at other high schools. Debbie has served a term on the student council and, on the basis of character, service, scholarship and leadership, was recently elected to the honor society. As a cheerleader she attends all of the school's football and basketball games, cheers at pep rallies and works as a hostess at various school functions.

Time permitting, Debbie sings in the McLean Baptist Church choir. On some weekends, she assists her father at the Servicemen's House where the church hosts servicemen. Naturally, she also helps her mother care for brothers Danny, 2, and Doug, 1. Her sister, Diane, a fifth-grader at Vollentine, already more than pulls her own weight.

Upon graduation from Northside, Debbie plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, and then return to Memphis to go to U.T. Medical School. However, these are plans for the future. During the coming year, Debbie will be able to pursue her activities at Northside and enjoy the companionship of her many friends both at the school and in the neighborhood.

STAFF: editors: john bruhwiler, george bradfute, rick thomas/copy: nancy lowe, golden shumaker/cover picture: sally hines/typing: sallee bruhwiler, judi dunn. cathe barnes, cathy awsumb/business: tom hines/circulation: cornelia morris/printing: wayne bean, courtesy southwestern at memphis.

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